Of a conſiderable Load-ſtone digged out of the Ground in Devonſhire.

THis Stone was lately ſent up out of the ſaid County, and preſented to the *R. Society* by the Reverend Arch-deacon, Doctor *Edw. Cotton*, with this deſcription, That it weighs 60 pounds; and that, though it take up no great weight, yet it moves a Needle about nine Foot diſtant. Some part of it being broken off, he hath ſent up alſo, becauſe (*ſaith he*) being put in its proper place, it adds much ſtrength to it, but without that addition it moves not much more than ſeven Foot.

Care will be had, that Tryals be made of the Vertue of this Stone, both of the two pieces cloſed together, and of each piece ſeparately, and that uncapped as well as capped.

Some Obſervables about Load-ſtones, and Sea-Compaſſes.

A Noble Perſon did upon a late occaſion, affirm, That a Needle of a Sea-Compaſs, put in a good Iron Mine (which, *he ſaid*, yeilded 23 pounds of Metal, out of a 120 pounds of Ore) was not ſenſibly moved thereby.

Another Honourable Perſon deſired, it might be obſerved, whether touched Needles move otherwiſe, when the Veins of Iron do not lie *North* and *South*, then when they do ſo?

It being inquired by a *Note* from forreign parts, Whether the Sea-Compaſſes in *England* were brought to a greater perfection, than in other *Countries?* Anſwer was made by intelligent perſons here, That all the perfection of our Sea-Compaſſes, as yet, conſiſted in this, That the Needles be touched by good Load-ſtones, and well librated, and that the Variation be truly placed: Though it was ſuggeſted withal, that for the greater perfection of ſuch Sea-Compaſſes, a way was contriving, to ſhew the Variation to *Minutes* and *Seconds*.

It was alſo propos'd, That it might be inquired into,

1. Whether a *Needle* may be ſo toucht upon any Magnet, as not to point to the true *North* and *South*, to be tried in ſuch places where there is no Variation known?

2. Whether